



HOW TO... Edit your home videos

Your home movies may not win you any awards, but you can still create some screen gems with the right editing know-how. Patrick Mundy explains how to use VideoWave Movie Creator Lite on the cover disc



Video-editing software is great for turning monotonous home movies into well-paced mini masterpieces. If you're tempted to try your hand at editing but are put off by the cost and complexity of programs such as Adobe Premiere Elements, you will find VideoWave Movie Creator Lite Edition much more accessible. It's one of the most straightforward editors around and it includes everything you need to tidy up and inject some fun into your home videos. And it's on this month's cover disc.

Install the software from the cover disc using the code 32af577ca when requested. Once this is complete, run it from the Start menu and you'll be presented with three options: one for capturing video, one for editing and one for burning the results to video CD. The technique used to capture video will depend on the type of video camera and capture hardware you have. If you have a DV camera and FireWire on your PC, it couldn't be easier. Just click the Easy Capture button, select DV Camcorder and follow the instructions onscreen. When you've finished capturing, click Done to return to the welcome screen.

1 The Edit Video section is where the most fun is to be had. There are two modes to choose from: StoryBuilder and StoryLine Editor. StoryBuilder offers a wizard-based approach to editing, which is fine if you're lazy or impatient. But we'll go for the StoryLine Editor, which offers full control over the editing process. Click the StoryLine Editor button and name your production.

If you've captured long sections of video, it's worth letting the software divide it up into individual clips using scene detection. Select a clip from the Library and click the Scene detect button, which is marked with a clapperboard icon. Click OK when you've finished and repeat the process for any other video files you want to use.

2 When you select a video file, the detected scenes will appear at the bottom-right of the screen. Start to arrange them on the storyboard that runs along the top of the screen by dragging and dropping them into place. You can also reorder clips by dragging them to the left or right, or delete them by selecting them and hitting the Delete key.

You won't want to use every clip in its entirety, of course. To truncate a clip on the storyboard, just double-click it to open it in the preview window, then click the Trim button. Use the transport controls to find your way around the clip and click Mark Start and Mark End to define the start and end points. Double-click any other clips you want to trim, and click the Done button when you have finished.

3 You have a choice of eight transition types for blending clips in subtle or extravagant ways. Click the Transitions button on the left, then drag one of the transition types into a gap between two clips on the storyboard. The Dissolve transition is the most useful, as it doesn't distract the viewer from the video's subject matter. Click Edit to adjust the transition speed.

4 Effects can be used correctly or creatively. The most useful effects here are the colour correction and playback speed tools. Double-click a clip on the storyboard and controls for these effects will appear on the right of the preview window. Click the Effects button on the left and you can add other effects by dragging them to the preview window or timeline.

5 To add text at the beginning or end of your production, click the Text button and drag one of the text style templates to the clip over which you want it to appear. Type your text into the box on the left and use the Font, Color and Position Text buttons to format it as necessary. If you don't want the text to run for the full length of the clip use the Text Start and Text End buttons, in the same way that you used Mark Start and Mark End to trim the clips in Step 2.

6 When your video is edited, click the Make Movie button and choose one of the output options. To create a high-quality file on your hard disk, pick Video File then the DV output from the drop-down list labelled Purpose. This renders a DV format file that you can export to tape or import into DVD authoring software. Alternatively, select Video CD to render a file that you can import into VideoWave's Video CD wizard.

VideoWave Movie Creator Lite Edition gives just a taste of what is possible with the full version. For 10 per cent off Roxio products, visit www.roxio.co.uk/adban/cd-upgrade/upgrade_en.jhtml. **ES**

